

From: Walter Garcia Kawamoto, PhD

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Twin Rivers Unified School District Trustee

To: History/Social Science Committee.

Re: Need for Latino history included in the draft Framework for History/Social Science.

My name is Walter Garcia Kawamoto, and I write to you from several personal perspectives. Let me share just two. As a community college teacher I am amazed at how many students who are products of the California K-12 don't know about the rich contributions to California history exemplified by our Latino community. As Trustee of a K-12 schoolboard, I am saddened by the high numbers of Latino dropouts. Many of these dropouts have shared that they and their community are unwelcome in our schools and the curriculum.

To address these concerns, I have a few suggestions:

On Line 2014, Page 351 Amend the description to include:

From 1994 on, political campaigns in California and other states pass a series of anti-immigrant propositions and laws (Prop.187. Prop.227). All but one provision of Prop.187 was blocked by the federal courts citing U.S. constitutional protections. In 1996 the Immigration Reform Act passed by U.S. Congress provides for increased border enforcement and benefit cuts.

From 2003 political conflict and controversy become national issues along with low quality public schools and lack of employment opportunities. In response the Latino community becomes increasingly politically active, increasing their voter registration and participation, changing the political make up of first the California legislature, then the federal congress. Latinos become the largest ethnic group in California 2010, a plurality of all residents, and Latino children become more than 51% of the public school students.

I propose that you include the above in a revised framework.

Thank you for your time in considering this letter.

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